

Alma Teachers' Club

HANDBOOK

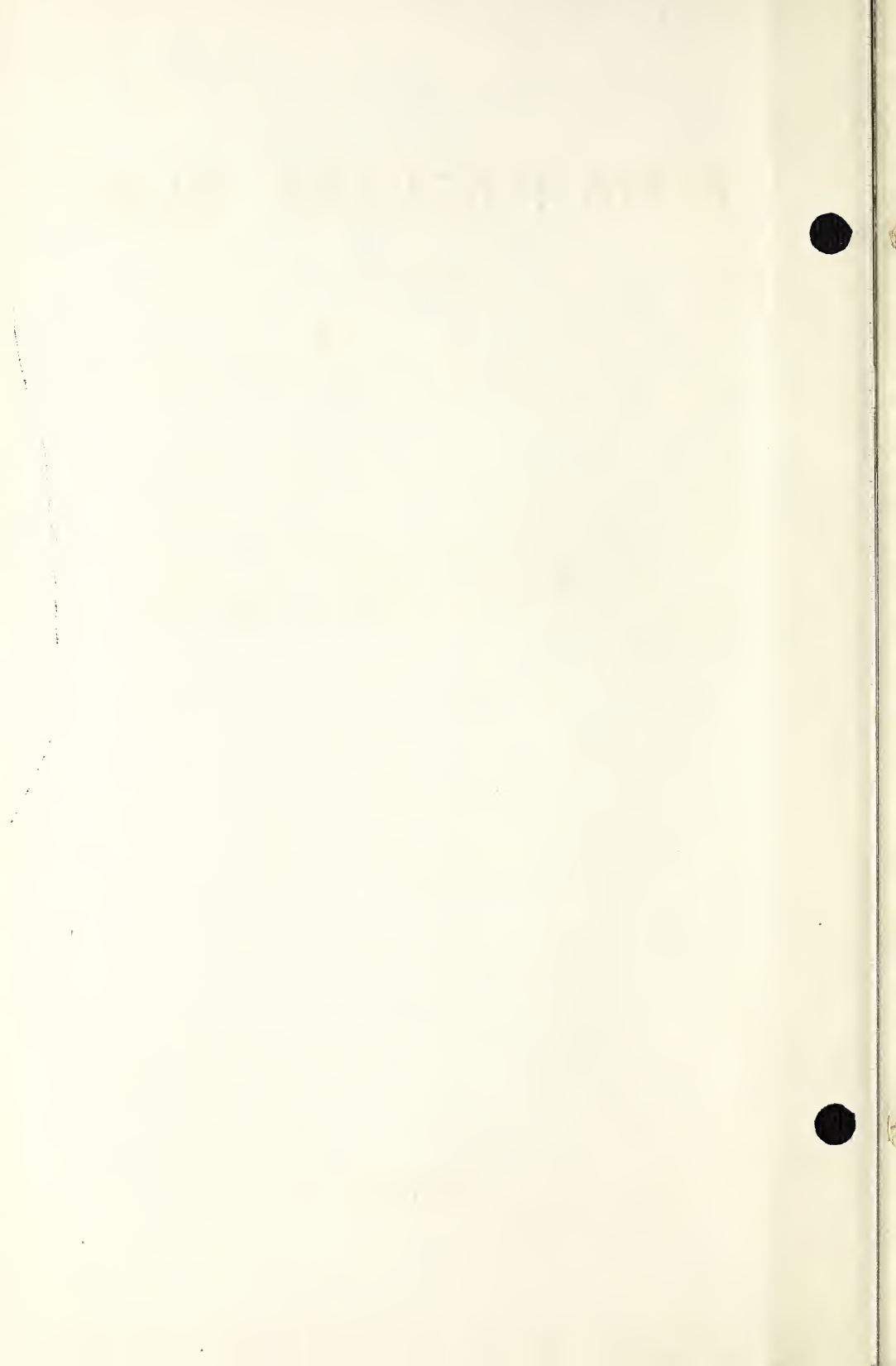
Name: *B. Hendeshot*



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1953



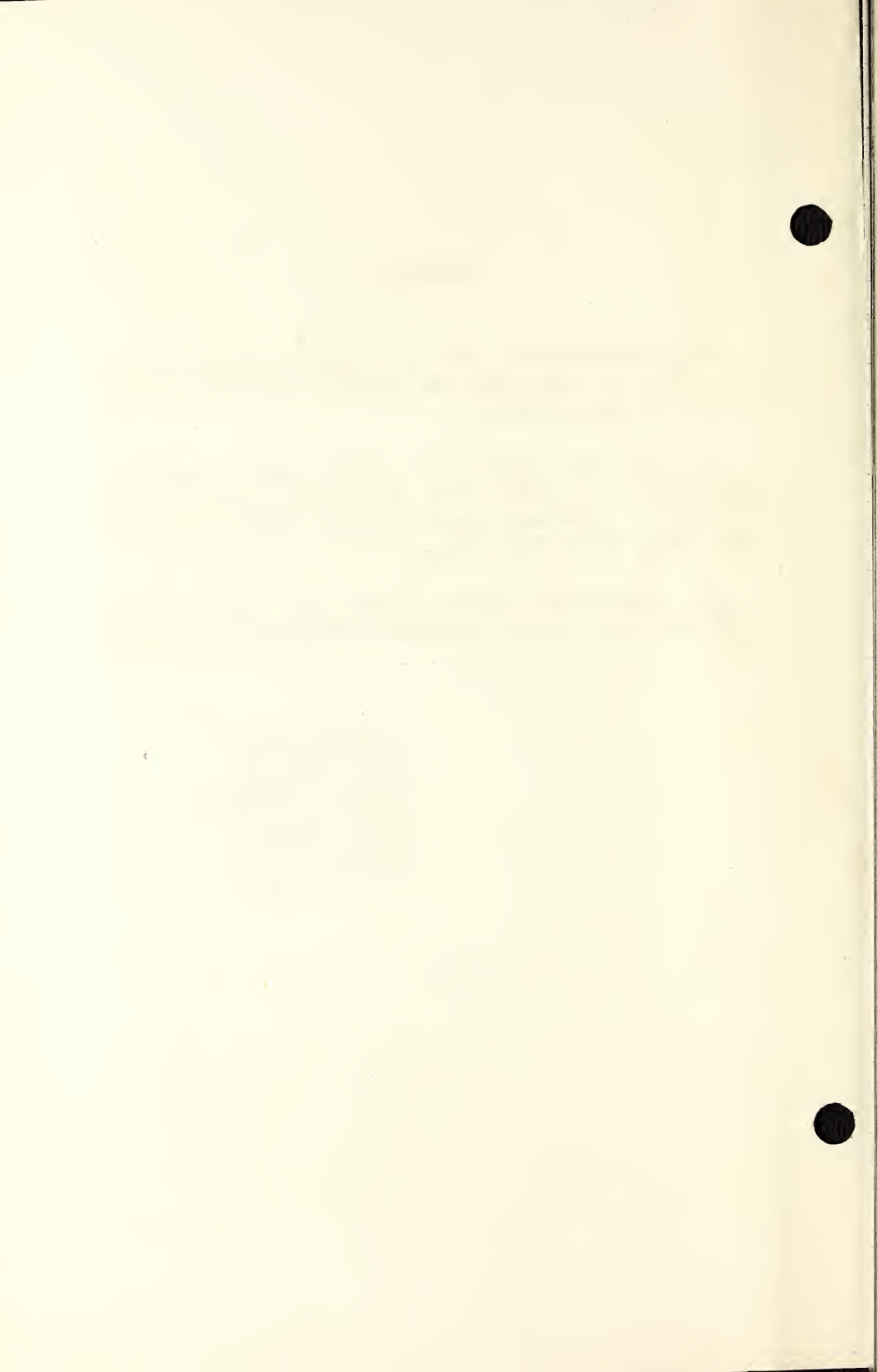
## PREFACE

Many interesting and informative facts about the city of Alma and our schools are not known by all of our members.

It is the purpose of this first edition handbook to present some information about our teachers' club and schools along with interesting facts about the city.

The committee hopes that you will enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed preparing it.

Lillian Mayer  
Ella Nichols  
Marilla Parfitt  
Grace Randel  
Noreen Smith  
Joe Van Dyke





## WE BELIEVE. . .

We believe that teaching is a vocation which ranks with a very few other professions as "most valuable" to our society. This is true because the education of the young is not only essential to the development of healthy, self-reliant individuals; it is also invaluable to the realization of the American dream of a superior social order.

We believe that teaching is an art which is bigger than any of the people who practice it, that it challenges the best in all of us. We believe that the chief objective of teaching must always be to help children grow creatively. We realize that it is an art in which methods and techniques must change as conditions change and as understanding of the child and his needs increases. We accept the principle of conservation of the best practices of the past along with an intelligent adoption of new methods.

We believe in the teacher as the center of the educative process. We believe in the importance of the teacher's being, first of all, a person who understands and appreciates and loves the child, whatever his capacity, and respects him as a person. The true teacher must have a deep interest in the whole child, not merely in his mental development.

We believe, too, in the importance of a sound training for the teacher in the subject matter he will handle as well as in the methods of presenting it to the learners. We further believe in the worth of experience under supervision in producing the capable teacher.

We believe in the growing teacher. We believe that every true teacher is a perpetual learner. It should be an axiom that the teacher becomes more and more valuable to his students and his system as he teaches. We believe in the value of in-service training, in the reading of professional magazines and books, in the taking of advanced work, in interested attendance at general teachers' conferences, in participation at workshops, and in informal discussions with parents, with supervisors, and with other teachers. We believe that the teacher who does not continue to grow up to the time of retirement is a handicap to the profession.

We believe in being professional in our attitudes and our practices. The professional viewpoint cannot be imposed from outside, but must be developed by the teacher. Therefore we believe that every teacher should adopt a personal code of ethics which would effectively control his actions--a code which would compel him to do those things which would bring honor to his chosen profession, and prevent him from doing those things which, if practiced by all teachers, would undermine his profession. We believe that each teacher should feel responsible to raise the standard of ethics practiced by his associates.

We believe that a teacher who is truly interested in the welfare of his profession will be a member of teachers' organizations on the national level, the state level, and the local level. Moreover, he will be an active member, taking his turn in positions of responsibility from officer to committee member.

Finally we believe that teaching is fun. We believe that teachers should radiate happiness, that every teacher should enjoy his work and show



it in the classroom and on the street. We are convinced that teachers are the richest people on earth, whatever their bank balance, and no teacher should envy anyone except another teacher who is getting more satisfaction out of teaching than he is.

We believe. . .

## THE TEACHER MUSES

Year after year they come to me,  
These children with questioning looks,  
Year after year they leave me,  
As they leave their outgrown books;  
And I wonder sometimes if I've taught them  
Just some of the worthwhile things,  
Just some of the things they'll need in life  
Be they peasants, or poets, or kings.  
Of course they've learned civics and history  
And how to divide and add,  
But have they learned that these are not all  
That make life sad or glad?  
Have I taught them the cause of smiling  
When things are at their worst?  
Have I taught them there's nothing that helps  
like a song  
When the heart seems ready to burst?  
Have I taught them the joy of clean living?  
**That honor 's better than fame?**  
That good friends are the greatest of treasures,  
Wealth, less than an untarnished name?  
Have I taught them respect to the aged?  
Protection to those who are weak?  
That silence always is golden  
When gossip bids them speak?  
Have I taught them that fear is a coward  
Who is beaten when they say, "I can"?  
That courtesy ranks with courage  
In the heart of the real gentleman?  
Have I taught them these things and the others  
That will help make them brave, kind, and true?  
If I have, then I care not if they tell me  
That Irkutsk is a town in Peru!

CONSTITUTION OF TEACHERS' CLUB  
OF THE CITY OF  
ALMA, MICHIGAN

(As amended and adopted by the Club, May 1952)

Article I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be "The Alma Teachers' Club."

Article II. Object.

The objects of this club are as follows:

A. To secure for its members the professional, intellectual, and social benefits to be derived from organized effort.

B. To promote a feeling of fellowship among co-workers.

C. To advance all educational interests and activities in the community.

Article III. Membership.

A. Any teacher of the Alma Public Schools is eligible to become a member of the club by paying the regular dues.

B. Any substitute teacher or wife of a teacher may become an associate member of the club by paying the regular dues.

Article IV. Officers.

A. Officers of this club shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the club each year and shall assume the duties of their office on the last day of the school year. At this time, also, records of the

secretary and treasurer shall be transferred to the new officers.

B. Each year the vice-president of the preceding year shall become president.

C. It shall be unconstitutional for any administrator or supervisor to hold any elective office.

D. Vacancies shall be filled by a special election.

#### Article V. Committees.

The following standing committees shall be chosen:

A. A program committee consisting of the Club's vice-president, who shall act as chairman, and one representative appointed by the president, from each building.

B. A flower committee, one member of which shall be a resident of Alma or its vicinity and shall assume responsibility for the summer work of the community.

C. A professional problems committee.

D. Representation on the salary-schedule committee, said representation to consist of 3 members elected at large from the club for terms of 3 years each, one new member to be elected each year to replace the member whose term expires in that year. The president of the Teachers' Club shall be an ex-officio member, also. Other members of this committee are the superintendent of schools, a principal, and members of the board of education.

E. Unless otherwise provided in the constitution, all committee chairmen shall be appointed by the president and all chairmen shall appoint their own committee members.

#### Article VI. Dues.

The regular dues of this club shall be \$1.50

per member per semester.

#### Article VII. Meetings.

A. The regular meetings of this club shall be a minimum of two meetings per semester as called by the President.

B. Special meetings may be called by the President.

C. Special meetings may be called upon the written consent or request of 25 per cent of the active members.

D. Starting time and place of the meetings to be decided.

E. A quorum shall consist of those present at a meeting.

#### Article VIII. Amendments.

Any amendment to this constitution may be proposed at any regular meeting, to be adopted by a majority vote of those present at the following regular meeting.



## HISTORY OF THE ALMA TEACHERS' CLUB

The Alma Teachers' Club has been in existence a quarter of a century. Since its organization in the fall of 1928, the club has existed for the social values made possible by group organization as well as for the improvement of the professional status of teachers.

B Back in the late twenties when Alma teachers first became interested in forming a club, little was known about how such groups functioned. So first letters were written to teachers' clubs in other cities, similar in size to Alma, and much helpful information was received. Then two Alma teachers, Doris Bartley (Baker) and Marion Crum, were asked to attend the meeting of the State Federation of Teachers' Clubs, held that year at Muskegon, and bring back ideas. Shortly afterwards the Alma club became a reality.

A ~~Constitutional~~ constitutional committee, consisting of Hildegard Empkie, Marion Crum, Mr. Shaw, and several others, was authorized to study other constitutions and prepare one for the local group. The club approved the proposed constitution and operated under it for a number of years. The original has been revised several times during the 25 years of the club's existence.

Through the years the club has been interested in a number of special activities, some being civic in nature while others relating solely to the teaching profession.

It has sponsored a lyceum course, the Rufus Rose Marionettes, and a picture exhibit. Three plays ("A Full House," "Come Out of the Kitchen," and "Ananias Bill") have been produced and it is planned to present another during 1953-54.

Financial support has been given to a number of causes including the following: Red Cross, Salvation Army, polio drives, U. S. O., Overseas Relief, the Conservation Park (there is a tree in the park with a Teachers' Club plate on it), Boy Scout drives, trips for high school students, the Miss Stitt memorial, and the United Fund drives. During a typical year (1944-45), the club's contributions totaled \$584.50.

The club has also sent representatives to civic planning groups and to the Community Center board.

Improvement of the status of the profession locally early became an objective. Group insurance was studied and adopted. Through committees working with the board of education and the superintendent, sick leave was increased and made accumulative, cost of living adjustments were made, and a salary schedule was adopted. Professional problems have been discussed freely in club meetings and some solutions arrived at. An active interest in local and state legislation has been characteristic of the club, and key people have often been invited to talk to the group.

The club has always had a large percentage of Alma teachers as members, often one hundred per cent. During some years the club has federated, while in others it has remained independent.

When the club was first established, social activities were given precedence and were always well attended. Such parties as an Old Fashioned School, a Hard Time party, and a County Fair, as well as variety shows and square dances, provided opportunities for teachers to get acquainted with each other and really "break loose." At

first the year's social affairs were in charge of a standing committee which planned all the social functions for an entire year. This proved too much of a burden for one group so each building was made responsible for a single social or educational affair during each school year.

One event that has always been important to the club is the spring banquet. The first one was a breakfast held at the Wright House. When the hotel dining room was no longer available, the event took place in various church dining rooms and became a dinner.

Another social affair that has become an annual tradition with the club is a dinner on the first evening of the school year. Old club members greet each other after the summer vacation, and new teachers are introduced to the group by Superintendent Phillips who never forgets a name.

As the personnel of the club changed from a majority of single teachers to a majority of married teachers, the emphasis on social life has declined and an emphasis on the study and solving of professional problems has taken its place.

Five charter members of the club are still teaching in the Alma schools: Martha Madison, F. R. Phillips, Melvin Erickson, A. C. Heying, and R. A. Yoder.

#### Past Presidents

Scott Hamlin	Irma Lefler
Melvin Erickson	Aurelia Verdine
Pearl Baxter	Myrtie Terry

Louise Mumbrue  
Martha Hale  
Ethelyn Adams  
Julius Barbour  
Melvia Giles  
Al Peets  
Graydon Blank  
Parm Mayer  
Miriam Besemer

Ella Nichols  
Rachel Bale  
R. W. Fullerton  
Margaret Laage  
Evelyn Peterson  
Allan Nichols  
Geraldine Towersey  
Lillian Mayer  
Lillian Early



## SCHOOL PRACTICES AND POLICIES

### Keeping Records--

The keeping of records varies according to grades.

Yellow sheets are kept from kindergarten through the sixth grade. They are a day to day record. On one side, the attendance record and scholastic record of the student is recorded. On the other side, a family record is kept.

A personality synopsis which includes a statement of present home environment is made. Such things as character traits, physical qualities, social qualities, special abilities, and definite outside work experiences are included at the end of each year from kindergarten through junior high.

Throughout a student's school life a health card is kept. This card has a record of height and weight, of communicable diseases, and of corrections that the student has had during the year.

A weight chart is also kept for each student in the grade schools. This chart the youngster receives at the end of the year.

Another record called the CA-39 is kept from the kindergarten through the twelfth grade. This includes a record of the family, the student's grades, mental tests, achievement tests, and aptitude tests.

Monthly records are kept by the teachers of the grade schools. This is a report of the attendance and membership of each class.



## Requisitions and Supplies--

In the early spring every teacher makes out a requisition for school supplies that will be needed the coming year. This requisition is turned over to the principal of each building who in turn submits a building requisition to the superintendent of schools. Such things as paper, pencils, chalk, scotch-tape, etc., are included.

## Changing of Textbooks--

A committee consisting of teachers and the principal of each building get together in the spring before school is let out to decide the changing of textbooks. They in turn make the recommendations to the superintendent. It is the policy of the Alma schools to use a textbook approximately five years.

## School Hours--

All the teachers are required to be at school at 8:00 a.m. and stay until 4:20 p.m. Classes actually begin at 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Noon dismissal varies according to grade. In the grades, dismissal is at 11:00 a.m. through 11:35 a.m. In junior and senior high, noon dismissal is at 11:45 a.m. Afternoon dismissal is at 3:10 p.m. to 3:35 p.m. in the grade schools and 4:00 p.m. in junior high and senior high.

## Extra Curricular Activities--

Junior High--Teachers in junior high are required to do other things besides teaching subject matter.

Noon lunch duty and teachers' meetings are

required of all the teachers. Attendance at P. T. A. meetings is expected but is not compulsory.

Some teachers handle intramural sports while others are in charge of clubs such as the Science Club and the Dancing Club.

Most of the teachers are assigned to a committee sometime during the year. Examples of these committees are student council, safety, building and grounds, elections, and assembly.

Senior High--In the Senior High, a great many student activities require teacher direction or sponsorship. These assignments are made each fall by the principal after conference with the teacher. Teachers usually act in two or three capacities.

Because of special skills required and the large amount of time used, extra pay is received by coaches of sports, the dramatics coach, and the faculty adviser of the yearbook.

Two class advisers are assigned to each of the three high school classes. The teachers who are assigned to the incoming Sophomore class continue with the class until it graduates.

Student committees responsible for certain school activities, such as the Assembly, Chapel, and Pep Committees, have one, two, or three teacher helpers.

There are at least fifteen functioning clubs, all using a teacher sponsor who attends all club meetings and is responsible for activities planned and carried out. Typical clubs in Alma High are: Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y, Future Farmers and Future Homemakers and Future Nurses, the Co-op Club.

Club, Librarians Club, Dramatics Club, Latin Club, Science Club, and the Pantherettes.

These clubs have from twenty to sixty members, meet at least once a month, and have several purely social affairs each year besides the activity for which the club exists.

Girls' intramural is directed by three women teachers, and boys' intramural by three men teachers.

Other assignments are ticket sellers at football and basketball games, faculty representatives on the Student Council, sponsorship of all-school functions as Mardi Gras and the Homecoming, and the faculty social committee.

#### AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION

The Audio-Visual Center is housed in the high school building on the second floor. It is there that a variety of equipment and materials are kept on hand for use by teachers of the entire system. Grade schools have some equipment in the building; however, all materials are housed in the Audio-Visual Center. Each teacher should contact the principal of his building as to availability of equipment and procedure of scheduling.

An in-service training course in this field is offered to all teachers in the fall. This course includes operation of equipment, utilization of materials, making of materials, and other information. This course would be especially helpful to teachers who are new to our system.

For further information and assistance, contact your principal or the Audio-Visual Center.

## GROUP INSURANCE

### M. E. A. Insurance

Any teacher who is an M. E. A. member may participate without health questions if he enrolls during November of the school year. He may enroll at any time by answering health questions. M. E. A. insurance is primarily a salary insurance plan but has a hospital and accident plan included. Family hospitalization, medical and surgical benefits are optional.

### Blue Cross Insurance

Alma teachers may enroll without a medical examination any time within thirty days after being employed. Blue Cross is a hospitalization and accident insurance plan. Family hospitalization and surgical and medical benefits are optional.

Either or both may be paid by the payroll-deduction plan. See Lillian Mayer for more information about insurance.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Classes in adult education are offered evenings each semester in whatever subjects enrollees are interested. In 1952-53 about 150 adults, some of them teachers, participated in seven classes. Instruction was offered in ceramics, physical education, bookkeeping, typing, shorthand, shop hobbies, and square dancing.

All classes meet in Senior High or Junior High, and in most cases teachers in these buildings act as instructors. As interest develops in new fields, new courses are added.



## INDUSTRIES

Alma has many industries. Several have brought fame to the city.

Alma Trailer Company is a leading manufacturer of trailers in the country.

Re Redman Trailer Company makes the famous "New Moon."

Leonard Refineries produces gas made for Michigan weather and sold only in Michigan.

Mid-West Refineries produces "platformed" gas and owns the Michigan-Ohio gasline.

Lobdell-Emery Manufacturing Company is the largest producer of bicycle rims and saddles in the country. They also make "Heir-Line" nursery furniture.

Alma Piston Company produces automotive parts for large manufacturers.

The Crippen Manufacturing Company makes grain and seed cleaning and separating machinery.

Roth Industries makes garden tractors and attachments.

The Central Division headquarters of Consumers Power Company is located in Alma.

Thousands of "Swift's Premium Ducks" are raised on Swift and Company's Alma farms.

The Michigan Masonic Home is located north of the city.



## BUILDING A TEMPLE

A builder builded a temple,  
He wrought it with grace and skill;  
Pillars and groins and arches  
All fashioned to work his will.  
Men said as they saw its beauty,  
"It shall never know decay.  
Great is thy skill, O builder,  
Thy fame shall endure for aye."

A teacher builded a temple  
With loving and infinite care;  
Planning each arch with patience,  
Laying each stone with care.  
None praised her unceasing efforts,  
None knew of her wondrous plan;  
For the temple the teacher builded  
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple,  
Crumbled into the dust.  
Low lies each stately pillar,  
Food for consuming rust.  
But the temple the teacher builded  
Will last while the ages roll,  
For that beautiful unseen temple  
Is a child's immortal soul.

SALARY SCHEDULE  
OF THE  
ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(As revised February, 1953)

I. TRAINING:

Minimum for teachers new to the system shall be the bachelor's degree.

II. SALARY (Based on 38 weeks of school):

A. Minimum for the bachelor's degree----	\$2775
B. Minimum for the master's degree-----	\$2875
C. Minimum for less than bachelor's degree-----	\$2575
D. Maximum for the bachelor's degree----	\$4000
E. Maximum for the master's degree-----	\$4200
F. Maximum for less than bachelor's degree-----	\$3000

III. DIFFERENTIAL:

There shall be no differential as to position, sex or personal obligations.

IV. EXPERIENCE:

Experience, outside the Alma school system, shall be evaluated by the Superintendent of Schools. The teacher shall be placed on the salary schedule as such evaluation merits and shall be entitled to the regular increments of the schedule unless by mutual agreement of the teacher and the Board of Education, the salary of the teacher shall remain at a given figure until such time as the teacher assumes his regular place on the basic schedule.

V. INCREMENTS:

A. Bachelor's degree shall be \$100 annually, for four years; \$125 annually until the

maximum is reached.

- B. Master's degree shall be the same, except it shall take one year more to reach the maximum.
- C. Less than Bachelor's degree shall be \$50 annually.
- D. Non-degree teachers receiving bachelor's degree will become eligible to receive the regular increment of the bachelor's degree until they attain the maximum pay. In figuring the salary in cases where enough work has been completed to place the teacher in a higher training group, add the increment to which the teacher is entitled under the group in which the teacher has been teaching and then add the difference between the beginning salaries of the two groups.
- E. Request for increment earned by teachers qualifying for a higher degree shall be made by written application to the Board of Education. Upon receipt of such application plus a statement from the conferring school that such degree has been earned during the college semester preceding our second semester, the Board of Education will make effective the increase in salary. Such increase shall be retroactive to the beginning of the semester following the completion of the work.
- F. There shall be a maximum of \$300 increments in implementing the schedule. This increment shall be based upon the annual salary and not upon a monthly or weekly basis.
- G. It was recommended that the Board of Education, in recognizing those positions which should be compensated over and above the salary schedule should consider an "assumed load" as a full teaching day plus

approximately 100 hours of extra curricular activities during the school year.

- H. The salary schedule shall be affected by a cost-of-living index based upon the official report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor as of December.

#### VI. RETIREMENT:

This salary schedule shall not be in effect after a teacher reaches the age of sixty. Each case then will be considered individually.

#### VII. SABBATICAL LEAVE:

A teacher with seven years of experience in the Alma Schools is eligible to receive one semester's leave at one-half pay, the time to be used in advanced study, approved travel or work which will tend to increase the value of that person as a teacher. Application must be made three months prior to the beginning of the semester of leave. The number of teachers to be receiving leave any one semester may be limited and applicants selected by the Salary Schedule Committee. Pay for the absent period shall be made in equal installments along with the regular salary during the first semester after return to active duty. The pay shall be at the regular rate according to the salary schedule. Non-degree teachers are eligible to a semester's leave provided the semester of work will complete the credits necessary for the bachelor's degree.

#### VIII. SICK LEAVE:

The Alma Board of Education will grant a maximum of ten days sick leave per year with full pay on account of (1) personal illness



to each employee, (2) death in the immediate family, (3) serious illness in the immediate family, and (4) absence necessitated by exposure to contagious diseases in which the health of others would be endangered by his or her attendance on duty, and that such unused number of days each year be allowed to accumulate for each year to a maximum of thirty days; that, when requested a health certificate be furnished upon entering our employ; that a physician's statement may be requested upon illness.

It is understood that the immediate family is to include: wife, husband, children, father, mother, sister, brother and any relative living under the same roof and supported by employee.

One day of the sick leave will be allowed annually for attendance at funerals of relatives other than those mentioned above.

Not more than one half of the sick leave of the current school year can be allowed before January 1 of that school year. At the end of the school year full credit will be allowed and adjustments made in payments.

#### IX. PHYSICAL FITNESS:

Each teacher shall annually be required to provide a doctor's certificate of physical fitness at his own expense, a standard form to be recommended by the Salary Schedule Committee. The Board reserves the right to require a re-examination at its own expense.

#### X. PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND ABILITY:

Increments and employment are contingent upon evidence of professional growth and ability



to perform required duties.

XI. CERTIFICATION:

Certification shall be in accordance with the state laws.

XII. SALARY SCHEDULE COMMITTEE:

A permanent committee consisting of three teachers elected by the Alma Teachers' Club, and two board members shall be set up. To start the operation, one teacher member shall be elected for a term of three years; one, for two years; and one for one year. At the expiration of each term the successor of each shall be elected for a term of three years.

Ex officio members shall be the superintendent of schools, the president of the Board of Education, the president of the Alma Teachers' Club, and one principal, selected by the principals.

The duties of this committee shall be to interpret the salary schedule and to act as a clearinghouse between the faculty and school board for any financial problems not stated in the schedule but bearing on it.

The chairman of the salary schedule committee shall be appointed by the committee before the end of the school year and shall assume the duties of chairman at the end of the school year.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Teachers' meetings, Tuesday-----Sept. 8, 1953  
Classes begin, Wednesday-----Sept. 9, 1953  
Regional M. E. A., Saginaw-----Oct. 8-9, 1953  
Thanksgiving recess-----Nov. 26-27, 1953  
Christmas vacation, 4 P. M.-----Dec. 18, 1953  
School opens-----Jan. 4, 1954  
First semester ends-----Jan. 29, 1954  
County institute at Alma-----Feb. , 1954  
Easter recess-----Apr. 16-19, 1954  
Memorial Day holiday, Monday-----May 31, 1954  
School year ends-----June 11, 1954

### General Teachers' Meetings

General teachers' meetings are held on the third Monday of each month except December. Meetings are held in the senior high school auditorium at 4:10. Attendance of all teachers is required.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

The college library, located just off West Superior on the street going to Balkle Field, has excellent facilities which are available to townspeople. Stacks are open to responsible users, and books are classified under the Library of Congress system. Books may be borrowed for two weeks.

Alma Public Library, Mildred Smith librarian, is located on West Superior between Prospect and Wright Ave. Miss Smith is assisted by Mrs. Mildred Essex and both are especially eager to assist teachers in finding the materials they need. The library is open afternoons and evenings, six days a week.

Grade teachers find a large selection of books in the children's room. These may be taken out in any reasonable quantity. Pictures and other materials are also available. Teen age books are grouped in a set of shelves by themselves.

Magazines, both current and old, may be borrowed for one week, books for two weeks. A record collection is also available.

On request the librarian will order books not in the local library from the State Library in Lansing.

## B. I. E. DAY

In 1952 the schools and business and industry cooperated in a B. I. E. Day for the first time. Business and professional men and women visited the schools in the forenoon. There they observed the normal activities of the classrooms. In the afternoon the teachers visited some

establishment of their choice and were given interesting and valuable insights into their operation. At noon the educators were guests of the business men at a luncheon.

Alma is the home of two large refineries, nationally known house trailer plants, and several other large scale manufacturing industries.

#### GRATIOT COUNTY M. E. A.

Three meetings of the Gratiot County M. E. A. will be held during the school year. They will take place in the latter part of November, the first part of March, and the first part of May. The meetings will be held in St. Louis, Ithaca, and Ashley, but the dates and locations are not definitely assigned until after the beginning of the school year.

Lee Nelson, principal of Stilwell Junior High, is president of the organization for the coming year.

#### ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The county A. C. E. is to be reorganized this fall. Four meetings are to be held during the year with the meeting places and dates to be set at the time of reorganization.

#### PAY DAYS

Teachers who work  $9\frac{1}{2}$  months have two choices as to time of pay. One plan is twenty-four pays on the 15th and 30th of each month, the six summer vacation pays being paid on June 15. The other plan is 19 pays issued every second Friday that school is in session.

## ALMA CULTURAL POSSIBILITIES

The Town Hall series brings good talent to the community. It is sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Alma, St. Louis, Breckenridge, and Ithaca. One number is presented in each participating town.

Because of the strong music department of Alma College, music is featured many times during the year. The college a capella choir is one of the finest in the country. It presents two concerts annually, one just before Christmas and one in the spring. Members of the faculty give recitals occasionally, and music students are presented in recitals open to the public.

The Alma Choral Union was organized several years ago and is open to anyone who is interested and likes to sing. For several years it has presented Handel's "Messiah" during the Christmas season with rehearsals held once a week during the fall.

The college has an excellent drama department under the direction of Professor William Gregory. Plays are staged in the new Jerry Tyler student center. Several productions are given annually ranging from Shakespeare to Broadway comedies. Each year a children's play is produced. The high school also produces a children's play annually as well as programs of one act plays and full length plays.

Alma service clubs include the Business and Professional Women's Club, Jaycees, Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis.

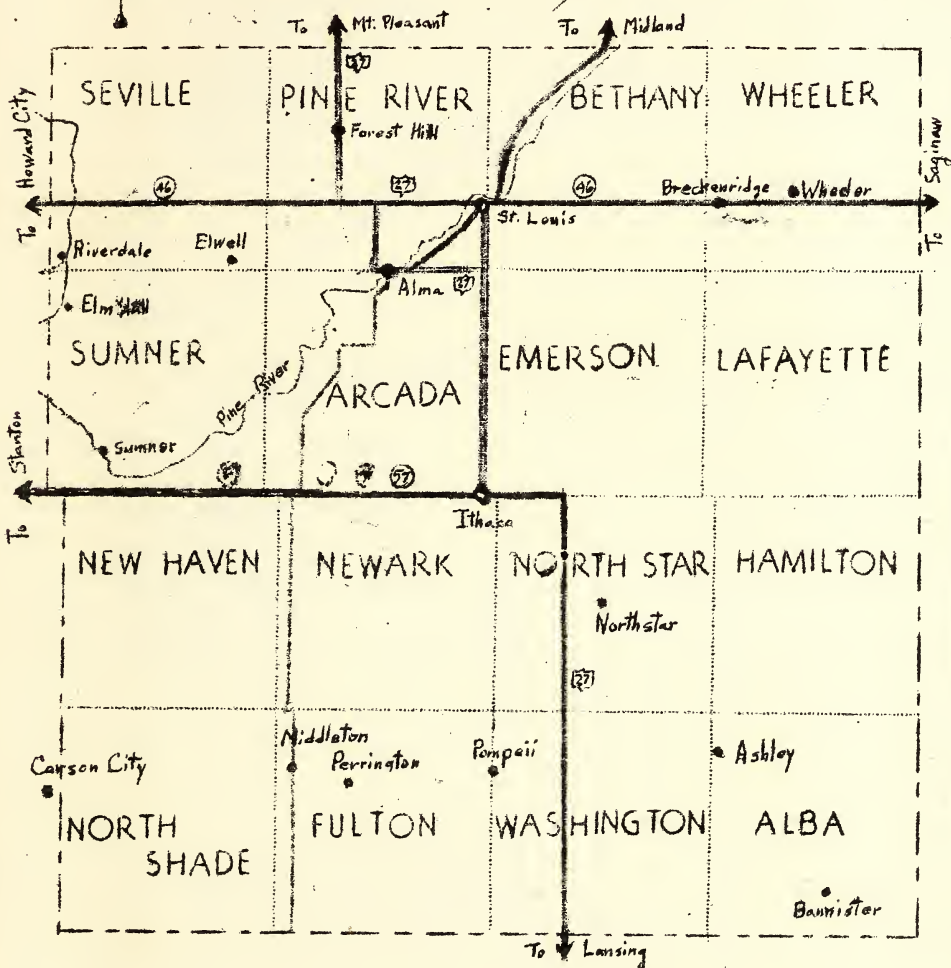


## CHURCHES OF ALMA

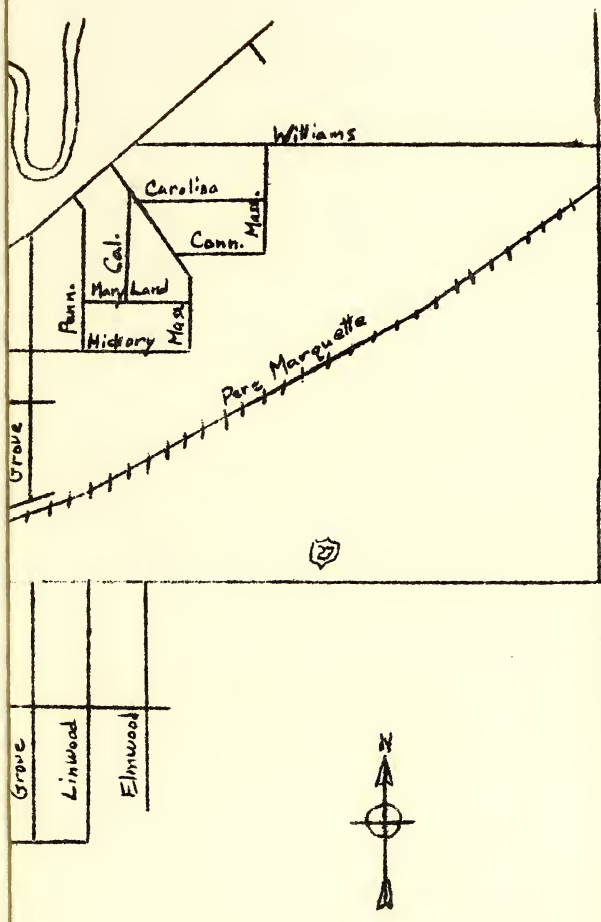
St. Mary's Catholic--Downie and Prospect  
Pilgrim Holiness--Pine  
Foursquare Gospel--1117 Michigan  
St. John's Episcopal--414 Wright  
Adventist--Hastings and Gratiot  
Salvation Army--318 Prospect  
First Church of Christ, Scientist--Woodworth and  
Hastings  
Eastminster Chapel--Republic  
United Brethren--110 Hastings  
First Presbyterian--Superior and Prospect  
First Baptist--N. State  
Christian--E. Superior  
First Methodist--Downie and Gratiot  
Church of God--Center and Prospect  
Free Methodist--702 W. Center



# GRATIOT COUNTY





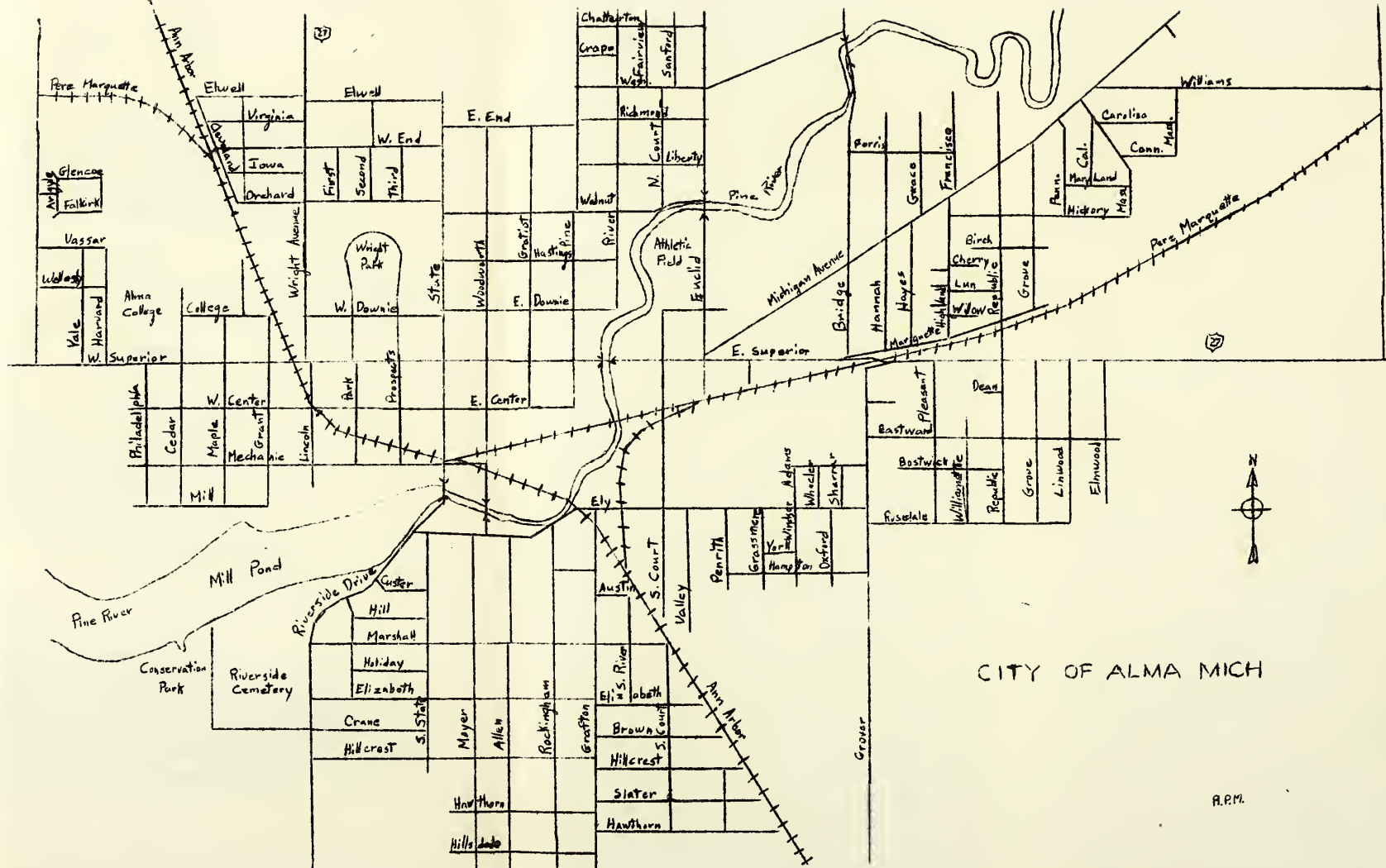


Y OF ALMA MICH

A.P.M.







CITY OF ALMA MICH

A.R.M.



GRATIOT COUNTY M. E. A.

Officers

President--Lee Nelson, Alma  
Vice President--Mauriece Buckingham, Ashley  
Secretary--Mrs. Berneice Potter, Alma  
Treasurer--Thelma Marr, Wheeler  
Delegates to Representative Assembly

Martha Hale, Alma  
Hollis Fickle, Fulton

Delegates to Department of Classroom Teachers

Pauline Greer, Ithaca  
Esther Macklin, Alma

Delegates to Region II Council

Ellen Bacigal, Rural  
Mauriece Buckingham, Ashley  
Lillian Mayer, Alma  
William Middleton, Riverdale

P. T. A. OFFICERS

Council

President--Albert Abbott  
Father Vice President--Charles Skinner  
Mother Vice President--Mrs. Clarence Moore  
Teacher Vice President--Martha Hale  
Recording Secretary--E. F. Hefflebower  
Corresponding Secretary--Mrs. Edwin Siefker  
Treasurer--Mrs. Leonard Kaufman

### Junior High

President--Everett Roslund  
Vice President--Everett Thompson  
Mother Vice President--Mrs. Charles Woodard  
Secretary-Treasurer--Harry Achziger

### Hillcrest

President--Mrs. Madeline Fiske  
Vice President--Warren Wilson  
Mother Vice President--Nan Miller  
Secretary--Laura Wilson  
Treasurer--Ida Matthews

### Lincoln

President--Mrs. Robert Anthony  
Vice President--Leonard Kaslander  
Mother Vice President--Mrs. Florence Brenner  
Secretary-Treasurer--Mrs. Fred Battles

### Republic

President--William Thompson  
Vice President--John Vance  
Mother Vice President--Mrs. Marjorie Matthews  
Teacher Vice President--Mrs. Cleo Brunner  
Secretary--Mrs. Robert Vine  
Treasurer--Mrs. Wayne Banks

### Wright Avenue

President--Mrs. Robert Stump  
Vice President--Lowell Veeder  
Mother Vice President--Mrs. Nathan Nichols  
Secretary--Mrs. Allen Rockwell  
Treasurer--Mrs. Don Brice

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

President----	Dr. Rex Wilcox	203 W. End	379
Vice Pres.-----	Charles Fiske	535 Moyer	1101-W
Treasurer---	Dr. Harold Dean	209 Grand	833-J
Secretary---	Mrs. Hope Moore	127 Allen	1030-J
Trustee-----	T. Allen Nichols	121 Carolina	

## SCHOOLS OF ALMA

Supt. of Schools Office--Downie and Pine--Ph. 93  
Senior High--Downie and Gratiot--Ph. 351  
Junior High--Downie and Pine--Ph. 346  
Hillcrest--Elizabeth--Ph. 342  
Lincoln--Gratiot and Hastings--Ph. 345  
Republic--Republic--Ph. 340  
Wright Avenue--Wright--Ph. 343  
St. Mary's Parochial--Downie and Park



## ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PERSONNEL

F. R. Phillips	Superintendent of Schools
Maude Yoder	Secretary to Superintendent
Margaret VanderHart	Music Supervisor
Beatrice Kren	Visual Ed. & H. S. Guidance
Charles Richardson	Sup't of Buildings & Grounds
John Mushinski	Maintenance
Elmer Harpst	Maintenance

### Senior High

Ward W. Shults	Principal
Grace Rowell	Secretary to Principal
Ethelyn Adams	Biology
Miriam Besemer	Librarian & Latin
Delmar Brenner	History & Government
Maynard Christensen	Agriculture
Harley Dean	Industrial Arts
Richard Fullerton	Chemistry & Physics
Leslie Gratton	History & Geography
Victor Hicks	Boys' Physical Education
Leonard Kaslander	Commercial
Martha Madison	English
Parm Mayer	History & Sociology
Dorothy Montigel	English
James Morrison	Spanish, Speech & Adult Ed.
Marilla Parfitt	Commercial
Walter Rench	Mechanical Drawing & Driver Ed.
Joe Thibedeau	Math & Coaching
Geralyne Towersey	Homemaking
Joe Van Dyke	English & Dramatics
Leo Van Meer	Commercial & Coordinator
Paula Wright	Girls' Physical Education
Eleanor Rhodes	Custodian
Irving Monroe	Custodian
Gordon Sanders	Custodian

### Junior High

Lee Nelson	Principal
Donna Nelson	Secretary to Principal
Harry Achziger	Math
Hazel Beeson	Social Science & English
Kenneth Bryde	Art
Eileen Budge	English
Rhinehart Burke	English
Galo Chew	Social Science
Kenneth Conway	Math
Philip Daab	Instrumental Music
Melvin Ericksen	Math
A. C. Heying	Industrial Arts
Melvin Larimer	Vocal Music
Lillian Mayer	Math & Girls' Physical Ed.
Betty Neilsen	Homemaking
Ella Nichols	General Science
Edwin Penner	Civics & Boys' Physical Ed.
Grace Randel	Social Science & English
Hazel Ware	Librarian & English
R. A. Yoder	General Math & Basic Business
Robert Harrow	Custodian
Anna Grove	Custodian

### Hillcrest

Melvia Giles	Principal
Charlotte Bonnell	Kindergarten
Erma LaPaugh	Grade One
Cecil Wolf	Grade One
Martha Springstead	Grade Two
Esther Macklin	Grade Three
Berneice Potter	Grades Four & Six
Rachel Bale	Grade Four
Bertha Hendershott	Grade Five
Lillian Early	Grade Six
George Newman	Custodian

### Lincoln

Melvia Giles	Principal
Pansy Bullis	Kindergarten
Florence Bachi	Grade One
Avis McLean Fretz	Grades One & Two
Gretchen Goggin	Grade Two
Coral Wood	Grade Three
Retta LaVoy	Custodian

### Republic

Martha Hale	Principal
Donna Howe	Kindergarten
Nina Adams	Grade One
Ada Prochazka	Grade One
Madelyn LaBrosse	Grade Two
Cleo Brunner	Grade Two
Fern Keller	Grade Three
Ethel Hamp	Grade Three
Gladys Bobier	Grade Four
Emma Soldan	Grade Four
Clara Eberspeaker	Grade Five
Ruby Neely	Grades Five & Six
Gladys O'Beirne	Grade Six
Dale Smith	Custodian

### Wright Avenue

Ethel Mae Webb	Principal
Valeria Snyder	Kindergarten
Norcen Smith	Grade One
Doris Hicks	Grades One & Two
Beverly McMullen	Grade Two
Betty Ewer	Grade Three
Carrie Alexander	Grade Four
Jane Baker	Grades Four & Five
Elizabeth Parker	Grade Five
Mildred Ericksen	Grade Six
Eloise Martin	Grade Six
Julia Witman	Grade Six
Harold Peterson	Custodian

# DIRECTORY

Achziger, Harry	711 $\frac{1}{2}$ Woodworth	
Adams, Ethelyn	221 Woodworth	285
Adams, Mrs. Nina	Sumner	
Alexander, Mrs. Carrie	703 River	864-R
Bachi, Mrs. Florence	315 Hastings	747
Baker, Mrs. Jane	130 Davis Rd.	5391
	St. Louis	
Bale, Mrs. Rachel	143 Moyer	861-J
Beeson, Mrs. Hazel	Alma, R. R. 3	34-F12
Besemer, Miriam	1009 Fairview	934-W
Bobier, Gladys	113 S. East	3601
	St. Louis	
Bonnell, Mrs. Charlotte	630 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. State	1139
Brenner, Delmar	426 E. Downey	1016-J
Brunner, Mrs. Cleo	808 N. State	855-W
Bryde, Kenneth	423 W. Center	1084-M
Budge, Mrs. Eileen	319 N. Jefferson	4561
	Ithaca	
Bullis, Mrs. Pansy	116 S. Pine	6362
	St. Louis	
Burke, Rhinehart	830 River	327
Chow, Galo	707 River	864-J
Christensen, Maynard	917 Pine	975-J
Conway, Kenneth	804 Pine	812-J
Daab, Philip	Middleton	
Dean, Harley	408 Richmond	584-J
Early, Mrs. Lillian	310 N. Court	1080-M
Eberspeaker, Clara	113 S. East	3601
	St. Louis	
Ericksen, Melvin	921 River	
Ericksen, Mrs. Mildred	921 River	
Ewer, Betty	733 Second	1279-R
Fretz, Mrs. Avis		
Fullerton, Richard	807 River	584-R
Giles, Melvia	315 Harvard	757
Goggin, Gretchen	207 Hastings	628
Gratton, Leslie	520 W. Superior	918-M
Grove, Mrs. Anna	418 Chatterton	1215-M



Hale, Martha	Sumner	24-F11
Hamp, Mrs. Ethel	305 Republic	949-R
Harpst, Elmer	Downie	
Harrow, Robert	825 York	
Hendershott, Mrs. Bertha	408 Hastings	720
Heying, A. C.	523 Wright	809-J
Hicks, Mrs. Doris	101 Allen	718
Hicks, Victor	101 Allen	718
Howe, Donna	208 Rockingham	
Kaslander, Leonard	808 Pine	943-R
Keller, Mrs. Fern	412 Hastings	1122
Kren, Beatrice	315 Harvard	757
LaBrosse, Mrs. Madelyn	517 Walnut	969-M
LaPaugh, Mrs. Erma	Ithaca, R. R.	
Larimer, Melvin	St. Louis, R. R.	
LaVoy, Mrs. Retta	1005 Fairview	
Macklin, Mrs. Esther	424 Park	938-J
Madison, Martha	619 N. Woodward	72
Martin, Mrs. Eloise	St. Louis	124F11
Mayer, Mrs. Lillian	804 River	807-M
Mayer, Parm	804 River	807-M
McMullen, Mrs. Beverly	311 Hastings	1163
Monroe, Irving	716 Grace	746-M
Montigel, Mrs. Dorothy	420 Elwell	602
Morrison, James	504 Wright	1040-J
Mushinski, John	519 Hayes	1068-W
Neely, Ruby		
Nelson, Mrs. Donna	431 $\frac{1}{2}$ Gratiot	398
Nelson, Lee	431 $\frac{1}{2}$ Gratiot	398
Newman, George	631 S. Rockingham	
Neilsen, Mrs. Elizabeth	530 Wright	1152-M
Nichols, Ella	1009 Fairview	934-W
O'Beirne, Gladys	219 State	834-J
Parfitt, Marilla	624 Pine	813-R
Parker, Mrs. Elizabeth	430 N. State	180
Peterson, Harold	605 Washington	1119-R
Phillips, F. R.	414 W. End	499
Potter, Mrs. Berneice	Alma, R. R. 3	
Prochazka, Mrs. Ada	507 W. Superior	651
Randel, Grace	219 State	834-J



Rench, Walter	520 Liberty	952-M
Rhodes, Mrs. Eleanor	720 Second	792-M
Richardson, Charles	401 Washington	586
Rowell, Grace	120 E. Center	
Sanders, Gordon	1038 Euclid	
Shults, Ward, W.	530 Woodworth	735
Smith, Dale	107 Moyer	1110-M
Smith, Noreen	610 Olive Rd.	
	St. Louis	
Snyder, Mrs. Valeria	124 S. Pine	3372
	St. Louis	
Soldan, Emma	310 N. Court	1080-M
Springstead, Mrs. Martha	328 Pleasant	996-R
Thibodeau, Joseph	Alma, R. R.	
Towersey, Mrs. GERALYNE	Alma, R. 2	R19-F14
VanderHart, Margaret	111 Philadelphia	687-M
Van Dyke, Joe	909 Pine	955-W
Van Meer, Leo	718 Gratiot	573
Ware, Mrs. Hazel	727 Pine	828-M
Webb, Ethel Mae	112 E. Downie	973-J
Witman, Julia	812 N. Court	324-M
Wolf, Cecil	532 Pine	162
Wood, Mrs. Coral	519 Virginia	977
Wright, Mrs. Paula	728 Woodworth	463-R
Yoder, Mrs. Maude	311 Hastings	1163
Yoder, R. A.	311 Hastings	1163

TEACHERS' CLUB OFFICERS  
1953 - 1954

President - Leonard Kaslander  
Vice President - Esther Macklin  
Secretary - Mrs. Eileen Budge  
Treasurer - Grace Randel

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Building Representatives

Senior High	Paula Wright
Junior High	Harry Achziger
Hillcrest	Berneice Potter
Lincoln	Pansy Bullis
Republic	Fern Keller
Wright Ave.	Carrie Alexander

Flower Committee

Grace Randel, Chairman  
Miriam Besemer  
Elizabeth Neilsen  
Martha Springstead  
Coral Wood  
Emma Soldan  
Doris Hicks

Professional Problems Committee

To be named.

Handbook Committee

To be named.

### Salary Schedule Committee

Ella Nichols, Chairman	Term expires 1954
Ethelyn Adams	Term expires 1955
Ethel Hamp	Term expires 1956

### Principals' Representative

Lee Nelson

### School Board Members

Mrs. Hope Moore  
Dr. Harold Dean

### Ex Officio Members

Dr. Rex Wilcox  
President of the School Board  
F. R. Phillips  
Superintendent of Schools  
Leonard Kaslander  
President of Teachers' Club

### Program Committee

The Program Committee consists of the building representatives with Esther Macklin, vice president, as Chairman.

## A Word from the President

The Alma Teachers' Club is a democratic group whose officers exist to carry out your wishes. As your president this year, I intend to see that the activities you want, are carried out as you want them carried out. The club's officers and the building representatives will be happy to receive any ideas or suggestions which will help the club to carry out its purposes.

The Handbook Committee started its work nearly two years ago. Reorganized last year, the committee has brought to completion an invaluable piece of work in the 1953 edition of the Handbook. To the hardworking members of the committee—congratulations for an accomplishment which will be useful to all of us, and thanks for the hours of labor you have given. We are also grateful to the school board which financed the project. Without its aid we should not have been able to produce the book this year.

One of the club's major projects for the coming year is the three act play which was pro-

posed last spring and favored by a majority of the club. An evening play on which a third of our members will work in some capacity will make us realize that cooperation pays dividends. Besides the feeling of pride we expect to have in offering such a production to the public, we will probably realize considerable monetary rewards. It has been suggested that profits from the play be used to start a scholarship fund to help future teachers through college.

Change in itself is not necessarily a good thing, but our club practices should change from year to year as conditions change and need dictates. Suggestions which have been in the air and which might be adopted this year include the creation of the scholarship fund mentioned above, an all-school talent show, and new forms of entertainment such as a progressive dinner or a Saturday night party with table games. Another suggestion is that we have more meetings similar to the panel held last year in which school problems could be discussed. Let us know what changes you would like.

I hope that for each of you the club may offer at least some of the things you expect from it.

Leonard Kaslander



1871  
The first of the year  
was a very cold one  
and the snow lay  
on the ground for  
many days.

The second of the year  
was a very warm one  
and the snow melted  
very soon.

The third of the year  
was a very cold one  
and the snow lay  
on the ground for  
many days.

